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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03956 041648 Z

16
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 GAC-01 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03

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OMB-01 RSR-01 /180 W
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 03956

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: ETRD, EEC, UK, US

SUBJECT: " TIMES" EDITORIAL ON EC- US RELATIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1839

1. " THE TIMES" TAKES AN OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF EC- US
RELATIONS IN AN EDITORIAL PUBLISHED ON APRIL 4.

2. THE EDITORIAL OUTLINES THE MAIN POINTS THAT WERE
MADE ON APRIL 3 BY COMMISSIONER SOAMES IN HIS STATEMENT
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TO THE EC COUNCIL ON THE FORTHCOMING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. THE EDITORIAL NOTES THAT A " MARKED IMPROVEMENT" HAS TAKEN PLACE RECENTLY IN THE COMMUNITY' S RELATIONS WITH THE US. " INSTEAD OF TALK OF CONFRONTATION IN A TRADE WAR, THE TALK IS NOW ALL OF NEGOTIATION." THE EDITORIAL ATTRIBUTES THIS CHANGE BOTH TO SOAMES' PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING EC- US RELATIONS AND TO " THE SENSIBLE REALIZATION BY PRESIDENT NIXON AND HIS ADVISERS THAT IT WOULD BE FAR MORE PRACTICAL TO DO A DEAL WITH THE COMMUNITY, IF IT IS AT ALL POSSIBLE, RATHER THAN INDULGE PROTECTIONISM."

3. THE MOST STRIKING ASPECT OF SOAMES' STATEMENT, THE EDITORIAL SAYS, IS THAT IT DOES NOT HESITATE TO BRING AGRICULTURE INTO THE CENTER OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO THE EDITORIAL, THE COMMISSION BELIEVES THAT A REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE ON AGRICULTURE WOULD WRECK THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND IT IS COMMITTED TO THE EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN SO FORTHCOMING IN THIS AREA, THE EDITORIAL SAYS, " AND IT MUST BE HOPED THAT THE AMERICANS TAKE DUE NOTICE."

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To: BONN
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